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LARVAL MIGRATION OF HYLES LINEATA (FAB.) (SPHINGIDAE)

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Larvae of Hyles lineata (Fabricius) were observed in mass migration on April 4, 1974, 17 miles south of Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley National Monument, Inyo County, California at an elevation of 300 feet. These larvae were traveling in a westward direction with a maximum concentration of approximately fifteen individuals per square meter. The width of the migration was approximately one fourth mile and the length is unknown. During the march, larvae fed on the prostrate lobed leaves of Chorizanthe rigida (Torr) T&G (Polygonaceae), a little low growing annual, and then moved on to another plant when these were gone.

Twenty larvae were taken and reared to adults on apple (Malus sp.). All were in the last instar, although they had much feeding to do before burying themselves to pupate.